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~~SECRET~~ NARA Date 4/18/87

[Signature] NARA Date 4/8/98

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FM USLP PEKING

TO THE WHITE HOUSE

~~SECRET SENSITIVE/HANDLE VIA VOYAGER CHANNELS~~

PEKING 135 07 NOVEMBER 1975

FOR : SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM : GEORGE BUSH

THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP: COMMUNIQUE

THE CHINESE SEEM TO BE STICKING TO THEIR LINE THAT THEY WOULD BE SATISFIED TO HAVE NO COMMUNIQUE AT ALL FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT. RECALLING THE DISCUSSION YOU AND I HAD ON THIS MATTER EARLIER, WE HAVE RESEARCHED THE PRECEDENTS ON COMMUNIQUES ISSUED IN PEKING THIS YEAR. WE COUNT SIXTEEN VISITORS TO THE PRC SO FAR THIS YEAR WHO HAVE BEEN ACCORDED HEAD OF STATE/GOVERNMENT PROTOCOL TREATMENT BY THE CHINESE. OF THESE, THE MAJORITY (NINE) DID NOT HAVE COMMUNIQUES. THEY INCLUDED SCHMIDT (FRG), LE DUAN (DRV), TINDEMANS (BELGIUM), AND SIX OTHERS. OF THE SEVEN WHO DID HAVE COMMUNIQUES, TWO--MARCOS AND KHUKRIT--DISCUSSED ONLY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. TWO OTHERS WERE CLEARLY SUBSTANTIVE--KIM (KOREA) AND SAMPHAN (CAMBODIA). THE REMAINING THREE--ALL CALLED "PRESS COMMUNIQUES"--INCLUDED TWO (YUGOSLAVIA AND TRINIDAD/TOBAGO) WHICH WERE TEN AND NINE PARAS LONG BUT DEVOID OF SUBSTANCE EXCEPT FOR SHORT BILATERAL SECTIONS, AND ONE (GUYANA) CONTAINING CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF THE WORLD SCENE.

THE PRECEDENTS ARE THUS CONFUSED, BUT A SUBSTANTIVE JOINT COMMUNIQUE IS CLEARLY NOT AN OBLIGATORY PART OF A PRC VISIT. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE HAVE BEEN ENOUGH COMMUNIQUES TO GIVE THE PRESS SUFFICIENT AMMUNITION TO CLAIM THAT THE LACK OF ONE MEANS NO AGREEMENT ON ISSUES.

AT THIS POINT, I DON'T SEE ANY PROFIT IN FURTHER BEATING THE DEAD HORSE OF A SUBSTANTIVE COMMUNIQUE. I BELIEVE THAT THE PRESIDENT CAN GET BY AT HOME WITH NO COMMUNIQUE OR A NONSUBSTANTIVE ONE AS LONG AS THE TOASTS AND PRESS BACKGROUNDING ARE CAREFULLY HANDLED.

WARM REGARDUS.

WHSR COMMENT *

SCHEIBELT, MCFARLANE, RUDMAN

RECALLED

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